AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A sonde~~ An apparatus for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an outer housing;

an electrical device operably associated with the housing;

a ~~side entry leak protector~~ connector ~~assembly~~ retained within the housing and comprising:

a ~~generally cylindrical~~ body with a pair of axial ends;

a conductive element retained within the body [,] and interconnected with the electrical device and extending through at least one of said axial ends; and

a circumferential channel adapted to capture fluid therewithin.

~~sealing encasing said conductive element within the body to electrically isolate the conductive element~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~sonde~~ apparatus of claim 9 further comprising an electrical pin connector associated with ~~said~~ the conductive element that ~~, for~~ electrically ~~connecting~~ connects the conductive element with an external conductor.

11. (cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The sonde of claim 11 further comprising~~ An apparatus for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an outer housing;

an electrical device operably associated with the housing;

a connector retained within the housing, the connector including a body with a pair of axial ends;

a conductive element retained within the body and interconnected with the electrical device and extending through at least one of said axial ends; and

a pair ~~of o-ring~~ seals disposed upon the body to preclude ~~escape of~~ fluid from ~~the channel~~ flowing from between the housing and the body.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~sonde~~ apparatus of claim 9 wherein the outer housing defines two interior chambers for housing electronic components and an axial passage that interconnects the two chambers and wherein the ~~side entry leak protector~~ connector ~~assembly~~ is retained within the axial passage.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~sonde~~ apparatus of claim 13 wherein the housing defines a lateral passage from the axial passage to an exterior radial surface of the housing.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The sonde of claim 11~~ An apparatus for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an outer housing;

an electrical device operably associated with the housing;

a connector retained within the housing and comprising:

a body with a pair of axial ends;

a conductive element retained within the body and interconnected with the electrical device and extending through at least one of said axial ends;

a circumferential channel adapted to capture fluid surrounding the body; and

~~wherein~~ a sensor element ~~is~~ disposed within the channel.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~sonde~~ apparatus of claim 13 wherein the axial passage is defined off-center from a central axis of the ~~sonde~~ housing.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of providing fluid sealing and electrical connections within a ~~sonde~~ well tool having an interior chamber ~~within~~, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a first electronic component within the interior chamber;

associating a second electronic component with an exterior of the ~~sonde~~ well tool; ~~and~~

connecting the first and second electronic components with ~~through a side entry leak protector~~ connector ~~assembly.~~; and

capturing fluid with a circumferential channel surrounding the connector.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising ~~the step of~~ establishing an electrical connection between the ~~sensor~~ second electronic component and the ~~side entry leak protector~~ connector ~~assembly~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising ~~the step of~~ establishing an electrical connection between the ~~side entry leak protector~~ connector ~~assembly~~ and an electronic component housed within the interior chamber.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the second electronic component comprises a sensor.

22. (Currently Amended) A side entry leak protector connector assembly comprising:

a generally cylindrical body having two axial ends and a ~~radial~~ circumferential outer surface, a circumferential channel being formed in the outer surface to capture fluid; and

a conductive element that is electrically isolated and sealed within the body, the conductive element providing a first electrical interconnection at the ~~radial~~ circumferential outer surface and a second electrical connection at an axial end.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The side entry leak protector connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the body further defines an axial passage through which additional wiring may be disposed.

25. (previously presented) The side entry leak protector connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the conductive element is electrically isolated and sealed within the body by glass-sealing.

26. (Currently Amended) The side entry leak protector connector assembly of claim 22 further comprising a sensor disposed upon the ~~radial~~ outer surface of the body and in electrical connection with the first electrical interconnection.

27. (Currently Amended) The side entry leak protector connector assembly of claim 22 further comprising an ~~o-ring~~ seal upon the outer radial surface of the body.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the connector further comprises a sealing encasing the conductive element within the body to electrically isolate the conductive element.